

October 20, 1977

Dear Mom and Dad,

We are fixing well after midnight and I write about this or four before it is done. Today we drove ~~to~~ to a state park on the Potomac and a hike along one of the trails. It was about three miles long and went through deep forest and a large swamp. The sign says that wild turkeys live there, but we didn't see any. This little walk was nothing compared to what we did last weekend. On Sunday we hiked seven miles over some very steep slopes in the New Ridge Mountains.

Yesterday we went up to Washington and visited the Smithsonian. As you know, it is enormous and consists of six different museums in different buildings. We happened to go into the Natural History Museum and spent a couple of hours there. It contains the animal collections and the history of man exhibits. It would take many visits just to walk by all the things to see, and then there would still be the other five museums! On top of that the National Gallery of Art is next door and the National Archives just across the street. Also, we have to see Congress, The White House, The Supreme Court, etc. It is still rather crowded downtown even though many tourists have left. Now, you would love to see the gem collection on the third floor of the building we visited. We saw the Hope Diamond and hundreds of the world's largest and most valuable jewels. I am sure that the largest specimen of every gem is in the Smithsonian.

Later as we went over to Georgetown, saw a show and then ate in a French restaurant. It is so much more comfortable with the weather a little bit cooler. We were lucky since it was very hot last week and is expected to reach ninety again on Tuesday.

Vickie started classes on Thursday and she says it is kind of strange having all-girl classes. There are about a dozen boys enrolled since this is the first year they have been admitted. Formerly the U of Va was for men only and all the women had to attend Mary Washington. Needless to say they won't go along with that any longer.

I see that the U of W has a new "side-scan" offense that works pretty good. Now it might be fun to see their games again.

Things are going fine at work; right now I am not busy as I am waiting for some equipment to arrive. I have been working on the computer.

We heard from Del and he is coming along fine and goes to work every day.

We are looking forward to Thanksgiving.

Time to eat.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim".